



MontCAS

Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alt)

Student Report

2011

Letter from Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alternate) is the state’s measure of student performance on the state content standards, which establish goals for what students should know and be able to do.

Students in grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Math and in grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science take the CRT or CRT-Alternate each year. Your student participated in the CRT-Alternate Assessment. The CRT-Alternate measures your student’s performance based on alternate achievement standards. The CRT-Alternate is aligned with the Montana state standards for Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Test results are based on teacher observations of your student’s performance on specifically designated test items.

This report shows how your student performed on the March 2011 CRT-Alternate. The results of this standards-based assessment are reported in five performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Nearing Proficiency, and Novice. While some students may not yet meet the standards, keep in mind that the standards are rigorous and challenging. Our long-term goal is for all students to achieve these standards so that Montana youth will be among the best educated in the world. School staff at your school will be able to provide further information about your student’s performance on the CRT-Alternate.

The CRT-Alternate is only one measure of student performance and should be viewed in the context of the student’s local programs and other measures. The CRT-Alternate is required by the No Child Left Behind Act and is part of an ongoing statewide educational improvement process. I encourage you to contact your child’s teacher for more information.

Sincerely,

Denise Juneau
Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction
Montana Office of Public Instruction
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Helena, Montana 59620-2501
<http://www.opi.mt.gov>

What can you do to help your student?

It is important to support your student in his or her studies now and throughout his or her future education.

Here are some tips for supporting your student in the completion of his or her schoolwork:

- Have regular discussions with your student’s teacher(s) to see what you can do at home to support your student’s work in school, such as making sure homework is done.
- Discuss with your student the subjects in which he or she needs improvement. Talk about whether there has been a noticeable improvement. If not, find out why.
- Ask your student to explain what he or she is studying. These conversations help you to follow your student’s progress and help your student to remember what he or she has learned.
- Make sure your student gets enough rest, eats properly, and arrives at school on time every day. Send your student to school prepared to learn.

What is the MontCAS Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alt)?

The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) Criterion-Referenced Test-Alternate (CRT-Alt) is the state’s measure of student performance on the state content standards, which establish goals for what all students should know and be able to do.

Students in grades 3-8 and 10 in Math and Reading and in grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science take the CRT or the CRT-Alt each year. Your student participated in the CRT-Alt. The CRT-Alt measures your student’s performance based on alternate achievement standards. The CRT-Alt is aligned with the Montana state standards for Mathematics, Reading, and Science. Test results are based on teacher observations of your student’s performance on specifically designed test items.

Who takes the CRT-Alt?

How a student with disabilities will participate in the state’s accountability system is decided by the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Only students considered to have a significant cognitive disability are eligible to take the alternate assessment. IEP teams are informed that the decision to have a student participate in the CRT-Alt may not be based on excessive or extended absence; disability category; social, cultural, or economic factors; the amount of time receiving special education services; or academic achievement significantly lower than his or her same-age peers.

What subjects were tested in spring 2011?

Mathematics	Grades 3-8 and 10
Reading	Grades 3-8 and 10
Science	Grades 4, 8, and 10

What types of test questions are on the CRT-Alt?

- Multiple-choice questions: Students choose the correct answer from four options. A student’s score is determined by the level of support, or scaffolding, required to choose a correct response. Each student has an opportunity to first answer without assistance to assure the opportunity to get the highest score possible.
- Other questions may ask the students to categorize items, place items on charts, etc.
- All choices are in the form of pictures, words, numbers, or a combination of these. The test administrator can adapt these materials, such as enlarging the text, to help a student access the content on the test.

How are the CRT-Alt results used?

MontCAS CRT-Alt test results are used for the following purposes:

- to assist educators in planning improvements to curriculum and instruction
- to determine whether schools are helping their students meet the state content standards

Where can you find more information?

Where can you find more information:
<https://data.opi.mt.gov/opireportingcenter>

Montana requirements for the participation of students with disabilities on the CRT: http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPcl_7

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